

Guest editor's preface

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This special issue contains six selected papers from recent issues of the Journal of Japanese Society for Artificial Intelligence.

The Japanese Society for Artificial Intelligence (JSAI), established in 1986, has been growing as the central society for AI research in Japan. The purpose of this special issue is to select distinguished pieces of work published in the Journal of JSAI and make them available worldwide in English.

For this purpose, JSAI formed an editorial board for the special issue and started the selection process in July 1993. All the 105 refereed papers published in Japanese in the Journal of JSAI, Vol. 6, No. 1 through Vol. 8, No. 3 (15 issues), were re-reviewed and discussed by the editorial board members. The editorial board met in January 1994 and selected eight papers, of which six were finally translated into English and appear in this issue. Although the papers in this issue are basically translations of the original, Japanese versions, some of them were re-organized and pointers to work done after the publication of the original versions were included.

The first paper by Nishida and Doshita originally appeared as a series of three papers in the Journal of JSAI, Vol. 6, No. 4 (July 1991), pp. 545-558, 559-568, and 569-579, which were re-organized into a single, shorter paper. The second paper by Sato originally appeared in Vol. 6, No. 6 (Nov. 1991), pp. 861-871. The third paper by Ishikawa originally appeared in Vol. 7, No. 2 (March 1992), pp. 329-335. The fourth paper by Yoshida and Motoda originally appeared as a series of two papers in Vol. 7, No. 4 (July 1992), pp. 675-685 and 686-696. The fifth paper by Matsuyama and Nitta originally appeared in Vol. 8, No. 3 (May 1993), pp. 336-347. The last paper by Goto and Nojima originally appeared in Vol. 8, No. 3 (May 1993), pp. 348-356.

Since Internet has made the exchange of ideas and information much smoother, it may be difficult to find distinctive features in AI research in Japan; nevertheless the readers may find something characteristic in the papers in this special issue.

I would like to give a list of editorial board members who cooperated in reviewing many papers for this special issue. As the chief editor, I thank all of them for their co-

operation. I also thank the editors of *Artificial Intelligence*, Daniel Bobrow and Michael Brady, for their guidance to make successful the publication of this issue.

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Kazunori Ueda,	Waseda University
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Masahiko Sato,	Tohoku University
Yoshiaki Shirai,	Osaka University
Hideyuki Nakashima,	Electrotechnical Laboratory
Katashi Nagao,	Sony Computer Science Laboratory Inc.
Toyoaki Nishida,	Nara Institute of Science and Technology
Masayuki Numao,	Tokyo Institute of Technology